



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office
P.O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155
<http://www.blm.gov>



IN REPLY REFER TO:
UTU-0126943
(UT-923)

RECEIVED
SEP 27 2005
DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

SEP 22 2005

CERTIFIED MAIL--Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Dave Lewis
American Gilsonite Company
29950 South Bonanza Highway
Bonanza, UT 84008

Re: Mining Plan Federal Gilsonite lease UTU- 0126943

Dear Mr. Lewis:

While reviewing your submissions (April 26, 2004, June 14, 2004 and Sep. 14, 2004), BLM has found some apparent discrepancies in the documents. BLM would like AGC to clarify these discrepancies in order that the review on the plan can continue.

1. April 26, 2004 - The plan states that a shaft would be sunk approximately 500 feet from the existing WH#17 escapeway. This shaft is known as the WH#18 shaft on the map dated 8/24/2004 Wagon Hound-18, and an orthophoto quad showing the road. On Figure 2 of the submittal, the WH#18 shaft is shown as the WH#17 escapeway. There is no mention of requiring a mechanized hoist in the write-up at the WH#17 escapeway, but it is shown on the map dated 8/23/2004.
2. April 26, 2004 - "WH#18 mine will be initially accessed from the existing WH#18 shaft (currently, the WH#17 secondary escapeshaft)". This conflicts with the map dated 8/24/2004 Wagon Hound-18 (submitted with the 9/1/04 your letter) and is very confusing through out that document. In the June 14, 2004 document the plan refers to a 100ft semi circle cleared around the WH#18 shaft on the fee side of the property which contradicts the map dated 8/24/2004
3. April 26, 2004 - "Mining will occur on both sides of the WH#18 escapeway. This is not shown on the maps. The above referenced map shows mining only on the east side of the WH#18 escapeway.
4. June 14, 2004 - The plan states that the [WH 18 escapeway] shaft will not be sunk but a 12" diameter drill hole will be put in and then the shaft will be developed by utilizing raising techniques. The submittal goes on to state, "It is estimated that the duration of the shaft sinking project will be 5 weeks". Sinking and raising are two different techniques. You need to be specific as to methodology so the Field Office can accurately assess impacts.

5. June 14, 2004 - the dimensions of the "surface opening" cap [of the WH 18 production shaft] are 2.5 X 20 feet. BLM is unsure what cap is being referenced. The dimension also does not cover the third dimension. BLM concurs with approximate dimensions and that the caps should be buried. The plan should reference placing caps on surface openings, but there should be a statement in the plan that final designs will be submitted and approved by BLM prior to cap installation.

6. June 14, 2004 - AGC has stated," Broadcast seeding is an approved method of reseeding that generally requires greater quantities of pure live seed (PLS) per acre than quantities prescribed for other methods, such as disking or tilling. Although AGC may decide to disk or rip the soil at a future date to enhance revegetation, it is more expeditious to simply broadcast larger seed quantities." BLM disagrees. The reason for disking, tilling, ripping or raking is to loosen the compacted soil. Leaving the compacted soil will keep the seed from taking root which will in turn make re-vegetation less successful. The lessee needs to include a seed mixture as part of the plan. The lessee should contact Dylan Tucker of the Vernal Field Office (at 781-4407) who has oversight of the grazing allotment that overlaps the lease and discuss what seed mix is preferable. The lessee needs to commit to continue to monitor the reshaped and seeded disturbances, and take actions to abate any stabilization; reseeding if an adequate cover of desirable vegetation cover is not emerging and continued monitoring for and controlling of noxious weeds that may emerge during reclamation until such time as the BLM finds the reclamation meeting the standards of 70% plant composition (type of species), density (number of species) and cover (% plants).

7. On the second page of the Sept. 1, 2004 plan, the running of a 2" HDPE pipe is cited. Lessee needs to specify if this line would be run underground (in this case show its location in the sectional view of the vein) or on the ground (in that case show it on the surface facilities figure).

8. An extension of a power line from nearby private lands is mentioned in the Sept. 1, 2004 plan. The number of lines to be strung; the [alternating current] voltage they would be transmitting; the number, diameter and height of the poles that would be installed; and what would happen with the wire and poles as part of reclamation need to be cited. The lessee should discuss the possible need to install raptor protection devices on the poles with Dixie Sadler of the Vernal Field Office (telephone number 781-4458). Where the lines would be run from poles to the surface facilities on the lease should be shown on the appropriate figures.

9. General - The lessee should stake or flag the location of proposed facilities and mention such in the narrative (e.g., the proposed centerlines of roads and buried pipelines, center of proposed openings, proposed power pole locations, limits of pad areas, etc.). This would expedite the evaluation that is required under the National Environmental Policy Act.

10. General - The applicant needs to indicate 1) whether or not the mining on nearby private land has encountered ground water (if so, the depth, quality, rate of seepage, and if that water has been discharged; and, if not, whether or not the proposed mining may encounter ground water); and 2) commit to submitting information to the AO about encounters of ground water (including the results of sampling and testing, quantities involved along with submitting a copy of the updated NPDS permit if water is to be discharged

11. General - Waste rock is mentioned in the narrative of the Sept. 1, 2004 plan, but where it would be located on the surface needs to be described and shown on the appropriate accompanying figure.

12. General - A figure that shows the relationship of the lease location to a well known location (such as Bonanza and SR45) and shows the existing and proposed access roads should be added. This would orient Vernal Field Office resource specialists who would be part of an interdisciplinary team who may need to inspect the application area.

13. General - A water right number is cited in the Sept 1, 2004 plan; however, an estimate of the volume of water per year that might be used would be helpful.

14. General - The Lessee must submit a spill plan that will address [how the lessee would clean-up and dispose of spills of] fluids such as anti freeze, battery acid, hydraulic fluid etc. The plan must state how the incident will be cleaned up and the preferred disposal method will be.

If you require further information please contact Mr. Stan Perkes, (801) 539-4036.

Sincerely,

JAMES F KOHLER

James F. Kohler
Chief, Solid Minerals Branch

cc: Vernal Field Office
Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (Attn. Doug Jensen)
Mine Files - UTU-0126943
Chron
SPerkes

Sp-sa 9-19-05 UTU012693